

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A process for forming a multi-ply fiber web comprising:

forming a first fiber ply on a top side of a belt;

moving the belt with the first fiber ply thereon in a first direction toward a combining section located on the top side of the belt;

forming a second fiber ply between a first wire of a first wire section and a second wire of a second wire section, wherein the first wire section and the second wire section are counter-rotating and the entire first wire section and the entire second wire section are located above the entire top side of the belt, wherein the forming of the second fiber ply begins upstream from the combining section with respect to the first direction;

advancing the first wire of the first wire section with the second ply thereon in a second direction toward the combining section; and

combining the first fiber ply on the belt with the second fiber ply on the first wire of the first wire section by applying the first wire of the first wire section onto the top side of the belt in the combining section from an angle above the belt.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The process of claim 26, further comprising:

forming the second fiber ply above the belt in a twin-wire part between the first wire of the first wire section and a second wire of a second wire section, wherein the twin-wire part defines a gap former;

moving the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section together in the second direction toward the combining section;

separating the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section before the combining section; and

retaining the second fiber ply on the first wire of the first wire section before the first wire of the first wire section with the second ply thereon enters the combining section.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The process of claim 27, further comprising directing a suspension into a beginning of the gap former generally in the first direction of the belt.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The process of claim 28, wherein the second fiber ply is run into the combining section at an angle of less than 90° with respect to the first orientation of the belt.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The process of claim 26, further comprising running the second fiber ply into the combining section at an angle of less than 90° with respect to the first orientation of the first belt.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The process of claim 26, wherein the forming of the second fiber ply comprises forming the second fiber ply on the first wire of the first wire section by additionally moving a second wire of a second wire section toward the first wire of the first wire section for forming the second fiber ply between the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section while the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section are moving toward the combining section, and then separating the second wire of the second wire section from the first wire of the first wire section while the first wire of the first wire section is moving in the second direction and before the first wire of the first wire section reaches the combining section.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The process of claim 31, wherein the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire of the first wire section and thereafter separates from the first wire of the first wire section upstream of the combining section along the first direction of the belt.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The process of claim 31, wherein the first wire of the first wire section is overlaid above the second wire of the second wire section as the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire of the first wire section and as the first wire of the first wire section and second wire of the second wire section are passed along a curved pathway into the second direction.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The process of claim 28, wherein the suspension is directed into the beginning of the gap at a location along the first direction of the belt that lies upstream of the combining section.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The process of claim 28, wherein the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire of the first wire section and also thereafter separates from the first wire of the first wire section upstream of the combining section along the first direction of the belt.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The process of claim 29, wherein the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire of the first wire section and also thereafter separates from the first wire of the first wire section upstream from the combining section along the first direction of the belt.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The process of claim 26, wherein the first wire section is advanced in the second direction and through and past the combining section along a path that is in the same direction of movement as the belt, such that the first ply and the second ply move in the same direction in and through the combining section.

Claim 38 (Currently amended): A process for forming a multi-ply fiber web comprising:
moving a belt in a first direction toward a combining section and moving the belt at a first orientation in the combining section;
forming a first fiber ply on the belt;

forming a second fiber ply in a twin-wire part between a first wire of a first wire section and a second wire of a second wire section, wherein the twin-wire part defines a gap former and the first wire section and the second wire section are counter-rotating and the entire first wire section and the entire second wire section are located above the entire top side of the belt;

directing a suspension into a beginning of the gap former generally in the first direction of the belt;

moving the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section together with the second ply between the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section in a second direction toward the combining section;

separating the first wire of the first wire section and the second wire of the second wire section before the combining section;

retaining the second fiber ply on the first wire of the first wire section before the first wire of the first wire section with the second ply thereon enters the combining section;

combining the first fiber ply on the belt with the second fiber ply on the first wire of the first wire section by applying the first wire of the first wire section onto the belt in the combining section at an angle with respect to the first orientation of the belt entering the combining section.

Claim 39 (Previously presented): The process of claim 38, further comprising running the second fiber ply into the combining section at an angle of less than 90° with respect to the first orientation of the belt.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The process of claim 38, wherein the suspension is directed into the beginning of the gap former at a location along the first direction of the belt that lies upstream of the combining section.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The process of claim 38, wherein the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire section and also thereafter separates from the first wire of the first wire section upstream from the combining section along the first direction of the belt.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The process of claim 39, wherein the second wire of the second wire section moves toward the first wire section and also thereafter separates from the first wire of the first wire section upstream of the combining section along the first direction of the belt.